

COMMISSIONERS APPROVAL

GRANDSTAFF *CG*

ROKOSCH

THOMPSON *at*

CHILCOTT *gc*

DRISCOLL *KD*

PLETTENBERG (Clerk & Recorder)

Date.....May 12, 2008

Members Present.....Commissioner Carlotta Grandstaff, Commissioner Jim Rokosch, Commissioner Alan Thompson, Commissioner Greg Chilcott and Commissioner Kathleen Driscoll

Minutes: Beth Perkins

► The Board met for signature approval for LiDAR mapping new contracts with Floodplain Administrator Laura Hendrix.

Laura gave a brief overview of the contract. She stated the total from Watershed Sciences is \$100,000 which is less than their original bid. She stated they are estimating doing the flight this week which is also earlier than expected.

**Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to execute the contract for LiDAR mapping with Watershed Sciences by Chairperson's signature. Commissioner Rokosch seconded the motion. All voted 'aye'.**

The Commissioners thanked Laura for her hard work.

► Commissioner Grandstaff gave an update of the Western Institute Leadership Conference in Salt Lake City to the Board. She stated the main purpose was a water quality district discussion.

► The Board met for the following budget hearings: Maintenance and Fair

► The Board met for a discussion on flooding potential with some of the Irrigation Districts. Present were OEM Director Ron Nicholas, OEM Erik Hoover, Planner John Lavey and several citizens.

Commissioner Grandstaff called the meeting to order and gave a brief overview. She stated the reason for this meeting is to hear how the irrigation districts plan on dealing with flooding.

Paul Barteni from Daly Ditches stated he takes water out of Skalkaho Creek. It is about pressure diversion and taking out water to reduce flooding of levees. Commissioner Rokosch asked about planning conditions. Paul replied they have gauges that tell them the levels about the canals. He stated they have lost 2,000 inches of water level this past week. They are concerned of the warm weather anticipated for next week. Commissioner Driscoll asked depending on the ditch system, what other ways are there to monitor the ditches? Paul replied after the rain comes, the water soaks into the ground and the remainder goes into the ditches.

John Crowley from Bitterroot Irrigation Ditch stated they have Lake Como fitted with a hydro-method and go by elevation. They spill at 4,246 feet with 2,200 feet of spillway. They have a SOP (Standard Operating Procedure) for any flooding event. He stated if they have a rain on snow event, people are contacted for the SOP. They have around the clock monitoring for the dam.

Commissioner Rokosch asked about an automated gate. John replied they have an automated gate on the dam which is accessed by remote. He stated it can be accessed by computer off site. He discussed dump points for the water from the dam and diversions. He stated they have undershoots to go underneath the canal for overflow. Their ditches are full-topped off at 350 to 360. They get into problems when they get a lot of rain and people start shutting their ditches, then he has to find places to dump water. He discussed diverting water to Skalkaho Creek.

Paul stated they keep excavators on site to clear out the ditches from debris. Commissioner Driscoll asked if they are seeing limiting ability on the overall picture of the valley. Paul stated with subdivisions you have more gates to check. You gather more water and with electrical storm it shuts off the pumps. John stated a good example is soft rock with an overshoot that goes over the top. They have two gates in that area and it would be a good spot to dump 500 plus inches of water. John stated they need more dump sites for water with drainages. People are putting ponds in and by releasing water, it may go right over the top of them. Everything is growing and it is hard to find places to dump water. A lot of culverts are undersized and with dumping water, it could wash out roads. He suggested the county get involved and visit some of these areas.

Commissioner Rokosch read an email sent by Civil Counsel Karen Mahar. He discussed two drainage districts Willow Creek and Humble Creek to address cooperative measures between local governments and irrigation districts. John stated they do have solar battery back up to the automated gates. Commissioner Rokosch stated they need to be a little more structured when approaching these things. Paul stated it is going to take an act of God to make people realize what is going on with the ditches and water levels. Commissioner Chilcott suggested putting in industrial strength guards at the gates (cattle guards). John replied it is a sore subject with people and it is very expensive.

Commissioner Driscoll asked when they are building in the area with the ditch system feeding the wells, if it blew out, what would happen with all the people on wells? Paul replied that is the problem. What does happen?

John Boland stated the blow outs can happen at any time. His concern is on those ditches with levees and the head gates are in rural areas. It would screw up the water supply for the people. Those taking the brunt of the water, do they get inspected by qualified hydrologists at any point in time? It was breached here in Hamilton several times. He discussed the old head gates not getting inspected. Paul replied the gate on the Rennaker property is a hundred years old. He is right with the domino effect should one fail. Paul suggested pre-warning people with drainages being utilized for overflow. Commissioner Rokosch asked about any documentation with the irrigation structure. Paul replied no. Ron stated they do have training such as with engineers and emergency procedures. He stated notification of breach of the dams is just a part of it. Commissioner Driscoll asked if there is a way to go a little bit further to send out a prior notice. Ron replied something in the newspaper is the fastest way to get the word to the people. He suggested the radio as well.

John Boland stated he is the first on the Corvallis Canal. If he sees the water reach the levee, who does he contact? Commissioner Grandstaff replied John should call the irrigation district. John Crowley replied the irrigation districts have definitions of emergency responses to deal with the problems such as a failure of a gate to dam failure.

Commissioner Grandstaff questioned if all irrigation districts use the same SOP. Paul stated if the dam is overflowing and people's ditches are breaching, you don't have time to be calling people. If they have a ditch in an emergency situation, the first thing is to notify the Sheriff's Department and then the irrigation district. John C. stated people also think we have a switch to flip to shut the water off. People also complain about the trees. They have easements and ditches to deal with as well as the trees. John C. stated they have multiple users and half have water shares. With those water shares, they have to maintain the gates which are a hundred years old. Commissioner Driscoll asked about the cost of the shares as well as to replace the ditches. John replied they are trying to obtain grants to replace the ditches. Paul discussed the fees for Daly Ditches going up from \$11 to \$18.11 per acre. The increase was to replace the ditches.

John Boland asked what happens if they declare an emergency and what is the emergency response time to get the sandbags out? Ron replied the response time is quick to get there but to fill the sandbags takes time. Commissioner Chilcott stated the Job Corp has a platform for emergency flooding in Libby but it is not always readily available. In 2001, they deployed about half of the sandbags. Road Crew, Sheriff's Office Reserve Deputies and anyone else would be the ones filling the sandbags. Commissioner Driscoll stated today's meeting is to find out what the county's responsibility is in the event of an emergency flood.

John Boland requested it be put into record no other representatives from any other irrigation districts are present for this meeting.

Ron Nicholas stated in the event of an emergency, the fire departments would have 500 sandbags available. Commissioner Rokosch stated he is glad John Boland is bringing these problems forward now. Paul replied if you live in a floodplain and know with the current snow pack, there is going to be flooding - be proactive. Ron suggested filling sandbags now. Commissioner Chilcott stated they used the folks from Trapper Peak in 2001 to fill sandbags. John Boland stated there is only about two weeks before they have a serious problem. He suggested putting sand in a truck or palletizing the sandbags to get them ready. When it is high down on the levee, they need to be on scene not down at the fire station filling sandbags. Have it ready. Paul stated as for leaving sand in a dump truck, the dump truck is usually in use.

Commissioner Chilcott stated he has some concerns with sandbags being given out with county funds. If you can identify a threat on your property, it is up to the landowner to come up with a solution. He has a problem with taking tax dollars for personal property. John Boland replied bill him for the price of the sandbags. The problem is getting them there.

Paul asked if there is somewhere in the county to stockpile sandbags. Commissioner Chilcott replied he believes there could be some room at the road department. Commissioner Grandstaff stated that does not answer the question. She asked if they could stockpile thousands of sandbags in advance and then distribute them throughout the flooding areas. John Crowley replied if you give 500 sandbags to one person for flooding, that would be a lot of work and people would still be without sandbags. Paul stated there needs to be a place for people to be able to go to get sandbags. John C. stated they have pretty good sized trees that he needs to cut to get through to the easement. If he goes out there with a chain saw, people are going to be very angry. Commissioner Grandstaff asked him if the people planted the trees. John replied yes, they planted trees within the easement. They are 25 feet tall. They have to come down and can't be moved. He stated they need to get in there with boulders. Paul stated with these landowners the trees are theirs until they fall and then they are the districts.

Commissioner Rokosch stated the Board should look at continuing this discussion and looking at the drainage situation this summer with the largest irrigation districts. The meeting was adjourned.

► Commissioner Driscoll attended BVLAC Mental Health meeting.

► The Board met for the following administrative matters:

- Bailey Airport hangar renewal: Glenda stated the lease is for 10 years. **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to approve Lease #364. Commissioner Driscoll seconded the motion. All voted 'aye'.**
- Sign off HOME quarterly: **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion for the Chairperson to sign the quarterly reporting for HOME. Commissioner Rokosch seconded the motion. All voted 'aye'.**

- Resolution for sale of old cables: Glenda stated this was from IT to dispose of it and to pay mileage for the disposal. **Commissioner Chilcott made a motion to adopt Resolution No. for the sale of old cables. Commissioner Rokosch seconded the motion. All voted 'aye'.**
  - Minute Approval for January; March 27<sup>th</sup>; April 3<sup>rd</sup>; and April 15<sup>th</sup>: Commissioner Rokosch requested an extension on January Minutes. The Board concurred. **Commissioner Rokosch made a motion to approve March 27<sup>th</sup>, April 3<sup>rd</sup> and April 15<sup>th</sup> minutes. Commissioner Chilcott seconded the motion. All voted 'aye'.**
- The Board met for the following budget hearings: OEM; County Attorney and Weed Department.